



Jeffrey L. Van Nortwick

DATE: February 21, 2006

TO: HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

FR: Jeffrey VanNortwick
Johnstown Township, Barry County

RE: House Bills 5711-5716

The introduction of the these referenced House Bills clearly demonstrates to me and many of your constituents that the Animal Factory Industry is seeking that everyone in this State needs to subsidize them for ever, with our fresh air, water and compromised quality of life.

The blatant disregard of an individuals Constitutional freedoms and protection that you swore to uphold are at risk by yet again the large influential corporations that seek greater profits at the expense of the citizens of this State and throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

Your Committee is clearly pandering to these special interest groups. These new proposed bills that will modify existing laws clearly demonstrates your lack of concern for the laws already written and their weakness to protect our rural fabric and the environment in which we live.

The enormous volume of waste produced by the Animal Factory Industry within our State has by far the least amount of regulator oversight than any other industry. Our existing laws need to be enforced better, more timely and at the expense of the Animal Factory Industry through user fees and monitoring fees. Citizens should

not be harassed, intimidated or charged for seeking protection of their Constitutional Rights when seeking help from their Government.

Existing laws and current voluntary programs are not having the anticipated regulating control over this industry as earlier lawmakers had sought. But instead they are providing lip service to communities and neighbors. Township governments have been stripped of local control by the State agencies that are slow to respond and that have failed to take all of the enforcement action required to protect the residence of our rural areas and the assets of the State of Michigan.

The fresh water and clean air of the State belongs to all of us and not a select few within this Animal Factory Industry. Local communities and neighbors should not have to continue to subsidize these abusive operators. It is your responsibility to help the Animal Factory Industry realize that our environment is not for sale or abuse. It should be an embarrassment that you have allowed the lobbyist for this industry to gain your control and influence.

This Animal Factory Industry has been associated as one of the single largest source of non-point pollution of our treasured Great Lakes. To do less now to preserve them will surely continue to impact the highly regarded industries of sport fishing, tourism, and the multitudes of small business's that rely on this States rivers, streams and lakes.

I am hopeful for the day when all lawmakers will take the time to communicate to all of the people of the State on the needed reforms within this extremely controversial industry. Our rural townships, communities and residents and the future of our States highly regarded natural resources deserve nothing less.